

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended)

A printing plate material comprising an aluminum support, and provided thereon, an image formation layer containing thermoplastic ~~particles~~ and particles, a light-to-heat conversion dye, and a mixture of an electron providing dye precursor and an electron accepting developing agent, the printing plate material being capable of being developed on a printing press, wherein the image formation layer changes in color due to infrared laser exposure, and the aluminum support is manufactured by a method comprising the steps of subjecting an aluminum plate to electrolytic surface roughening treatment, subjecting the electrolytic surface roughened aluminum plate to etching treatment in an aqueous alkali solution, and subjecting the resulting aluminum plate to anodization treatment.

Claim 2 (Original)

The printing plate material of claim 1, wherein an etching amount of the electrolytic surface roughened aluminum plate etched by the etching treatment is 0.05 to 2.0 g/m².

Claim 3 (Original)

The printing plate material of claim 1, wherein mechanical surface roughening treatment is carried out prior to the electrolytic surface roughening treatment.

Claim 4 (Original)

The printing plate material of claim 2, wherein mechanical surface roughened treatment is carried out prior to the electrolytic surface roughening treatment.

Claim 5 (Original)

The printing plate material of claim 1, wherein the light-to-heat conversion dye is a cyanine dye having an absorption maximum of from 700 to 12,000 nm.

Claim 6 (Original)

The printing plate material of claim 1, wherein the light-to-heat conversion dye content of the image formation layer is from 0.01 to 10% by weight and the thermoplastic particle content of the image formation layer is from 1 to 90% by weight.

Claim 7 (Original)

The printing plate material of claim 1, wherein the light-to-heat conversion dye in the image formation layer changes in color due to infrared laser exposure.

Claim 8 (Original)

The printing plate material of claim 1, wherein the image formation layer further contains a water soluble resin.

Claim 9 (Original)

The printing plate material of claim 8, wherein the water soluble resin is oligosaccharide, polysaccharide or polyacrylic acid.

Claim 10 (Original)

The printing plate material of claim 9, wherein the oligosaccharide is trehalose.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended)

A method of manufacturing a printing plate material comprising an aluminum support, and provided thereon, an image formation layer, the printing plate material being capable of being developed on a printing press, the method comprising the steps of:

subjecting an aluminum plate to electrolytic surface roughening treatment;

subjecting the electrolytic surface roughened aluminum plate to etching treatment in an aqueous alkali solution to give an etching amount of the electrolytic surface roughened aluminum plate of 0.05 to 2.0 g/m²;

subjecting the resulting aluminum plate to anodization treatment, whereby an aluminum support is obtained; and

providing on the aluminum support an image formation layer which contains thermoplastic ~~particles~~ and particles, a light-to-heat conversion dye, and a mixture of an electron providing dye precursor and an electron accepting developing agent, and changes in color due to infrared laser exposure.

Claim 12 (Original)

The method of claim 11, wherein mechanical surface roughening treatment is carried out prior to the electrolytic surface roughening treatment.

Claim 13 (Original)

The method of claim 11, wherein the light-to-heat conversion dye is a cyanine dye having an absorption maximum of from 700 to 12,000 nm.

Claim 14 (Original)

The method of claim 11, wherein the light-to-heat conversion dye content of the image formation layer is from 0.01 to 10% by weight and the thermoplastic particle content of the image formation layer is from 1 to 90% by weight.

Claim 15 (Original)

The method of claim 11, wherein the light-to-heat conversion dye in the image formation layer changes in color due to infrared laser exposure.

Claim 16 (Original)

The method of claim 11, wherein the image formation layer further contains a water soluble resin.

Claim 17 (Original)

The method of claim 16, wherein the water soluble resin is oligosaccharide, polysaccharide or polyacrylic acid.

Claim 18 (Original)

The method of claim 17, wherein the oligosaccharide is trehalose.

Claim 19 (New)

The printing plate material of claim 1, wherein the electron providing dye precursor is selected from the group consisting of a triarylmethane compound, a diphenylmethane compound, spiropyran compound, a fluoran compound, a rhodamine lactam compound and a carbazolylmethane compound, and the electron accepting developing agent is selected from the group consisting of a phenol compound, a thiophenol compound, a thiourea derivative, an organic acid or its metal salt, and oxyesters.

Claim 20 (New)

The method of claim 1, wherein the electron providing dye precursor is selected from the group consisting of a triarylmethane compound, a diphenylmethane compound, spiropyran compound, a fluoran compound, a rhodamine lactam compound and a carbazolylmethane compound, and the electron accepting developing agent is selected from the group consisting of a phenol compound, a thiophenol compound, a thiourea derivative, an organic acid or its metal salt, and oxyesters.